

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 02920 261644 Z

63

ACTION AF-18

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9370

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USINT ALGIERS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2920

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MO AG LY

SUBJECT: KENITRA TRIAL

REF: RABAT 2896

1. TRIAL OF 157 PERSONS INDICTED FOR SUBVERSION WHICH
BEGAN JUNE 25 AT KENITRA (REFTEL) PRODUCED SOME INTERESTING
DEVELOPMENTS IN FIRST DAY. TRIAL IS REMARKABLY PUBLIC SO
FAR, WITH FOREIGN OBSERVERS AND JOURNALISTS PRESENT,
AND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS ARE REPORTED IN FRONT PAGES OF BOTH
OPPOSITION AND PRO- GOVERNMENT PRESS ALONG WITH PHOTOS
OF SOME OF ACCUSED AND THEIR LAWYERS. CZECH- MADE KALASHNIKOV
RIFLES AND OTHER WEAPONS ARE SHOWO STACKED ON TABLE IN
COURTROOM AS EXHIBITS FOR PROSECUTION.

2. GOVERNMENT STATEMENT JUSTIFYING REFERRAL OF AFFAIR TO
MILITARY COURT WAS READ AT TRIAL AND PUBLISHED IN PRESS
JUNE 26. DOCUMENT IS MOSTLY REPEAT OF CHARGES MADE IN
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR'S APRIL 2 COMMUNIQUE (RABAT 1452),
BUT SOME SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO AN ALGERIAN CONNECTION WITH
REBELS HAVE BEEN ADDED. ACCORDING TO STATEMENT, CONSPIRACY
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PAGE 02 RABAT 02920 261644 Z

BEGAN IN 1966 WHEN SUBVERSIVE GROUP WAS FOUNDED IN PARIS AND ORAN WITH MOHAMED EL BASRI AT ITS HEAD. IN 1967, SOME MEMBERS OF GROUP ALLEGEDLY UNDERWENT TRAINING LASTING 45 DAYS AT CAMP IN ARZEW IN ALGERIA. ARMED REBELS RESPONSIBLE FOR MARCH ATTACKS ARE POIMPEDLY SAID TO HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED THROUGH FIGUIG, " COMING FROM ALGERIA." STATEMENT SPEAKS OF ORGANIZATION " TELEGUIDED FROM ABROAD," BUT IS NOT SPECIFIC ABOUT JUST WHERE TELEGUIDING CAME FROM. IN 1969 REBELS ARE ALSO SAID TO HAVE UNDERGONE SIMILAR TRAINING IN SYRIA AT CAMPS IN AL- BAIDA OUTSIDE OF DAMASCUS AND IN ZABDANE. ALTHOUGH KALASHNIKOV RIFLES AND OTHER WEAPONS WERE PRE-SUMBALY PROVIDED BY LIBYANS, AND ELEMENTS OF EL BASRI'19 GROUP PRESUMABLY TRAINED IN LIBYA, STATEMENT DOES NOT SAY SO.

3. STATEMENT ALSO CONTAINS TWO NEW REFERENCES TO UNFP. UNFP OFFICES IN CASABLANCA ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN USED FOR A MEETING IN DECEMBER 1972 AT WHICH IT WAS DECIDED TO SET UP SUBVERSIVE CELLS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF CASABLANCA, AND AN UNNAMED " SUBVERSIVE UNFP MEMBER" IN SAFI IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CAUGHT LAST MARCH WITH TRACTS CALLING ON POPULACE TO SUPPORT ARMED REBELS. STATEMENT DOES NOT IMPLICATE UNFP AS ORGANIZATION, AND REGIME SEEMS TO HAVE BACKED AWAY FROM THIS TACTIC SOMEWHAT SINCE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR COMMUNIQUE OF MARCH 25 (RABAT 1320). DESPITE OBJECTIONS BY DEFENSE LAWYER BOUCETTA UNFP/ RABAT LEADER BOUABID HAS BEEN CALLED AS WITNESS FOR PROSECUTION, WHICH PREVENTS HIS ACTING AS LAWYER. ACCORDING TO PUBLIC PROSECUTOR HIS TESTIMONY WILL NOT RELATE TO HIS CLIENTS EL YAZGHI OR BENJELLOUN. FRONT PAGE PHOTO IN PRO- GOVE AMENT " LE MATIN" SHOWS HIM SEATED AMONG LAWYERS IN STREET CLOTHES LOOKING PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY.
ROCKWELL

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